

LODI HISTORIAN

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This edition of the Lodi Historian includes, in part, a speech given to the Lodi Historical Society in 1990, by Evelyn Hassbaum about the Cary Bros. The buildings pictured in this issue are some of the buildings built by the Cary Bros. The "we" in the first sentence of the text refers to Evelyn and her husband Bud Hassbaum.

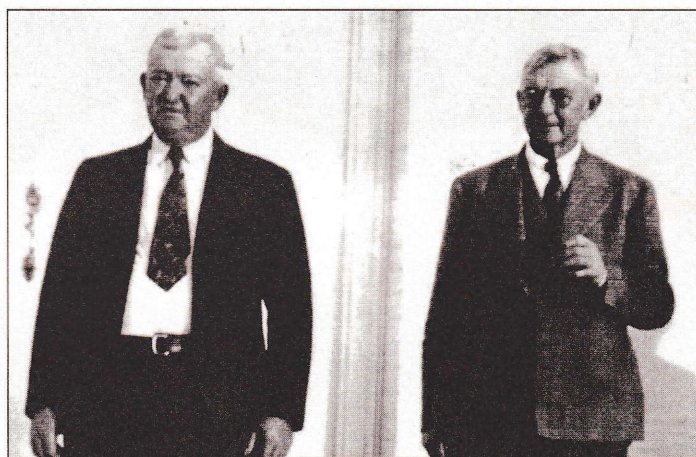
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Cary Bros., Lodi Planing Mill.



Ed and Fred Cary twin sons of Bartley and Maria Cary about 1870 in Carson City.



Fred and Ed Cary, circa 1933

When we returned to Lodi from Menlo Park about two years ago I began wondering about my family history and the parts they played in Lodi's development particularly about my father and uncle known as the Cary Brothers and I thought it would be fun to investigate...

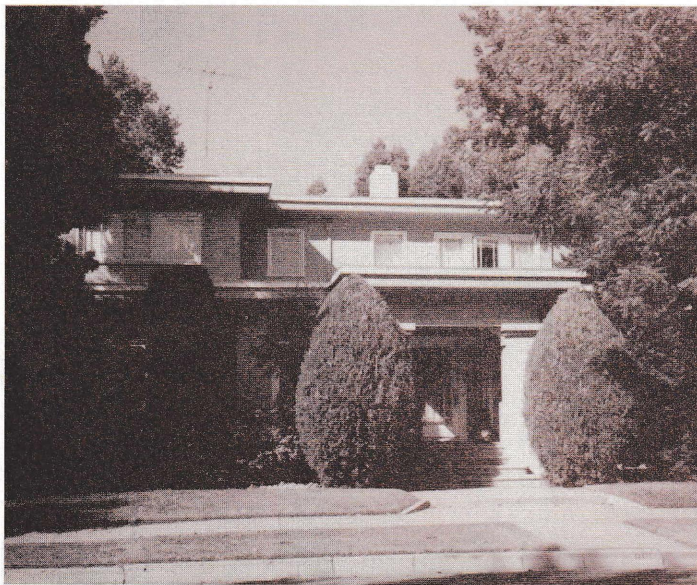
Both sides of my family came west before California was a state, before 1850. My mothers'

maiden name was Anna Van Valkenburgh. The Van Valkenburghs', a Holland Dutch family, first settled in Long Island, New York...and finally settled near the now extinct town of Liberty, near Hiway 99 just east of Galt. The cemetery is still there with the Van Valkenburgh tombstones.

Edward Colfax Cary was my father and his twin Fred Grant Cary was my uncle. They were born in



Needham School on South Church Street.



Built for William Spooner on the corner of Crescent Avenue and Walnut Street.



140 South Orange Street built by the Cary Bros. for Thomas and Irene Cary-Green, daughter of Fred Cary.

Indiana in 1868. My father contended that his father, Bartley Cary, from a Quaker family, had crossed the plains three times, but when he brought his family west in 1869—his wife, a small daughter and the twin baby boys—they came by ship “around the horn”, meaning around South America’s Terra del Fuego. A baby was born on the journey and died.

Bartley Cary and his family first settled in Nevada in the once much larger town of Genoa. He farmed there and the house they lived in still stands and is being lived in today.

When the twins were two years old they were taken to Carson City to be photographed. Fred’s hair was somewhat curly where Ed’s was straight. They were fraternal twins. My grandmother curled my father’s hair to make them look alike... After moving to Carson City for the schools the family later decided to come to California. They came to San Jose to live. When the twins were about 18 years old, they decided to seek the building trades and the two of them moved to Alameda where the opportunities were greater. Uncle Fred’s talents lay in the mathematical figuring of framing a building. My father admired his ability and thought there was none better. My father was the more artistic one—designing the buildings and drawing beautiful plans, all without architectural training. It was the era of the so called “gingerbread” designs and he acquired the skills of woodturning and carving for the decorations while in Alameda.



Lodi High School in 1900 on the NW corner of Church Street and Lodi Avenue (then called Sargent Road).

We have in our home some of the beautifully carved furniture. (Note: Some of this furniture is now displayed at Hill House)

They both married while in the Bay Area and moved to Lodi in 1893 when they were 25 years old.

Fred and Daisy Cary had a daughter Irene Cary Green. Ed and Helen had a son, Harold Cary who was born in 1895. He was killed in the 1st World War on Sept. 26, 1918, at the age of 23. The armistice was signed on Nov. 11.

Ed and Helen were divorced at the turn of the century while Harold was still a small boy. My mother, Anna, and father were married on New Year's Day, 1904. Upon its completion they moved into their new home in the 200 block of North School Street, next to Dr. John Blodgett's home.

Ed and Anna were married 12 years before I came along. He was 48 when I was born so I was more like a grandchild. My mother died when I was six years old.

When I was eight my father married Georgia Carlton Lillie. She was a niece of the famous woman attorney and women's suffragist, Laura De Force Gordon. Georgia had a daughter, Merle Lillie Kaufman, who as a little girl, along with Irene Cary Green, participated in the 1st Tokay Festival as small attendants to the Queen, Bertha Clark.

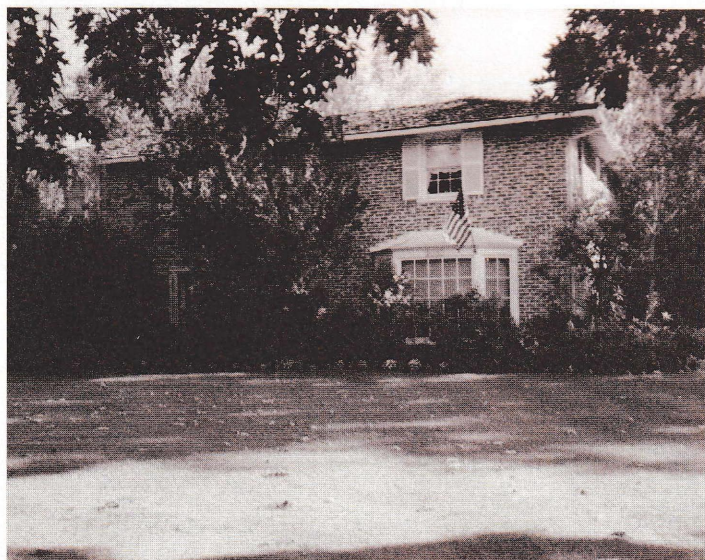
When I read some of the old newspapers articles in the Lodi Review-Budget, as the Lodi paper was



Charles Beckman house on East Kettleman Lane.



21 East Elm and Main Streets. Garage built in 1912 used by the Cary Bros.



Originally the Don and Fern Wood home at 2030 Lodi Avenue.



Built for George Hill in 1900 originally on South School Street. Moved in 1948 to 826 South Church.



Built for Fred and Daisy Cary on the corner of Church and Pine Streets, later moved to Pine and California Streets.



Friedberger and Blodgett Building on the corner of Pine and Sacramento Streets.



Built for Oscar and Gladys Wood, 517 Pine Street.



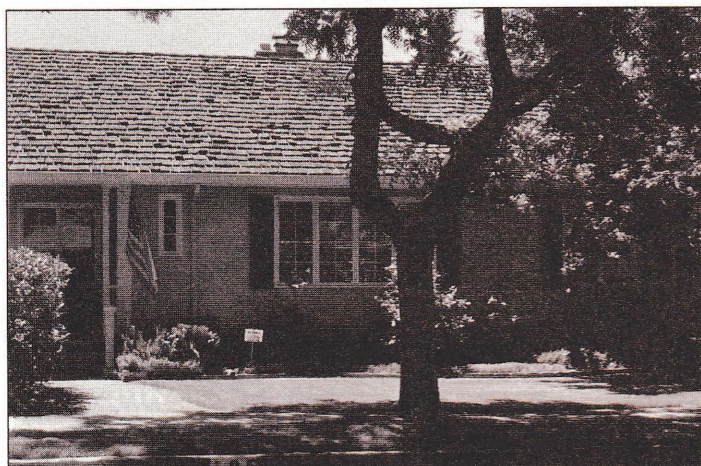
The Siegelkoff house, 124 East Pine Street. The first house built by the Cary Bros.



Ernest and Evelyn Hassbaum home at 120 South Crescent, built in 1941.



603 West Pine Street.



Built for Lewis and Laura Singer at 105 South Crescent Street.



Home of Loyal Van Valkenburg, grandfather of Evelyn Hassbaum, daughter of Ed Cary. House was later moved to Kettleman Lane.



Burton Building on Pine Street.

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Ad from
The Lodi
Sentinel,
Jan. 2, 1904



Originally built for Daisy Cary.



1400 West Lodi Avenue, built for Victor Larsen by the Cary Bros.



Cary Bros. first business in Lodi.



Anna and Ed Cary.



Daisy and Fred Cary.



Anna Van Valkenburgh Cary and Edward Cary in front of their new house on the Northeast corner of Elm and Lee Streets.

titled, of 1894, 95, 96, that Ralph Lea has found and copied, I have begun to realize what a vital force the Cary Bros. were in helping the town of Lodi to grow and to modernize. From a small purchase they had bought, they extended the water, the gas and the electricity to the city. They had an active planing mill operation and later they were building contractors, constructing many of the downtown buildings and many of the houses in Lodi. They were sort of pioneers from 1893. They built our house at 120 S. Crescent in 1941. When they came to Lodi they bought the waterworks on the corner of Main & Locust Streets, where the water tank stands today. It consisted of an 8 inch bored well 104 feet deep, a small steam engine, a pump and one reservoir 50 feet high with a capacity of 15,000 gallons.

The Cary Bros. began making improvements, another new well of 104 feet was dug with a new pumping plant installed, and a second large reservoir of 60,000 gallon capacity and a tower 60 feet high. New main pipes of 6 and 8 inch cast iron were laid and a 25 horsepower steam engine and a 40 horsepower boiler added. A substantial brick and iron building 35' by 35' was built. Water had been at \$2.00 per lot per month the May 12, 1894 news article states, but the August 1895 paper, that recalls these improvements, said the water costs \$2.50 a month, so the price of water had gone up 50 cents.

It was thought that Lodi was over an underground lake of pure fresh water. The pumps worked about 8 hours a day. 24,000 feet of main and lateral pipes were laid in town through which water was delivered at 40 pounds pressure.

The earlier newspaper of May 12, 1894, mentions that "during the past week Supt. Cary of the Lodi Water, Gas & Electric Company had a force of men laying a 3" main on Pine Street replacing the existing pipe. They laid 510 ft. and put in modern cut-offs where necessary." With the two power plants in operation and a new tank built they planned to replace the inadequate mains in the business district and arranged to have 6" mains on each side of town. I imagine "the business district" meant Main and Sacramento Streets. This would insure equal pressure to all their customers. Quoting again from the newspaper, "When asked about the gas

project they replied that it could be here in a very short time. It was up to the business men as the existing pipes were too small and larger ones needed to be installed."

That was May, 1894 but by November, 1894 Lodi was lit for the first time with gas. Almost a year later, August 1895, the paper said "Lodi had had to depend on the glimmer of kerosene lamps, but now Lodi is in possession of a complete gas system. Due to the enterprise of the Cary Bros., who secured a franchise, put in a first class Springfield gas machine and will furnish gas to the citizens for \$3.00 per 1000 feet. Over 4,000 feet of gas mains are laid in Lodi and are steadily being increased. The light given is clear, bright and steady and fully equal to the coal-gas supplied companies in great cities."

In the same August 1895 newspaper it goes on to say, "Cary Bros. also conduct the Lodi Planing Mill, Sash & Door Factory. This they secured with their original purchase. It has all the principle machinery required—planers, lathes, band-saws, edgers, molders etc. The machinery is driven by a 25 horse-power engine supplied from a 40 horse power boiler, now used also to drive the pumps for the waterworks. As soon as a new pumping engine is installed, this engine will be devoted just to millwork. Large quantities of millwork are sent from Lodi to the mining towns. Cary Bros. has a complete line of moulding and a plumbing establishment in which they do all the plumbing and pipe fitting connected with their gas and water works."

Soon the steam engine had to operate 24 hours a day so when the men came to work at the planing mill at 7:00 in the morning the machinery could start. They had hired John Henning to be there for the night shift to keep the fire burning to maintain the head of steam. On Henning's night off one of the Cary twins stayed the night to stoke the fire. I can remember my father telling of the "tramps," as they were referred to, probably men riding the freight cars, coming at night seeking a warm place to sleep.

By August, 1895 Lodi had a population of about 1800 people and the water, gas & electric company grew becoming a true small utility. John Henning

began urging some of the prominent men to think about having the city buy the business and make it a municipal utility. The Cary Bros. had no desire to sell after all their hard work and planning, but they were finally forced into naming a price. They felt it was worth \$50,000 and when it was finally brought to a public vote they lost. They were paid \$35,000 in 1910. It was a low blow after their 16-17 years of developing the system. They felt railroaded and betrayed.

They, with most of their friends, belonged to the Masonic order, but after the vote and sale they no longer believed in the brotherhood of Masonry. They both wanted to resign but Aunt Daisy paid Fred's dues for years as she took great delight in belonging to the Order of Eastern Star and her husband had to be a Mason for her to continue her membership.

It really embittered Fred Cary for the rest of his life. My father, as time went by, was able to adjust better. But it was really difficult for them to see John Henning become the Superintendent of the Lodi Public Utilities.

Eventually, putting all of that behind them, they turned to becoming Cary Bros., Building Contractors, full time.

I've tried to put together photographs of a few of the places they built, but many of the old structures are gone. They built the Hill House for the jeweler, George Hill, that was first located on School Street... Cary Bros. built the two-story Friedberger-Blodgett Building on the northwest corner of Sacramento & Pine Streets and also the building to the west, formerly Burton's Shoe Store.

Everyone in our immediate living family feels that they built the Lodi Arch from our personal recall but we have found no written proof. It was designed by E.B. Brown.

The first Lodi High School was located on the northwest corner of Church & Lodi Ave. which they built and they also built Needham School in the 1920's.

Cary Bros. won the contract for the first Hotel Lodi on the southwest corner of Pine & Sacramento Streets. They did the excavation and perhaps moved a house or two, then everything stopped for a year or

more. It probably was a matter of the owner having trouble with financing. Later someone else built it.

When the Fred Cary house was moved from the corner of Church & Pine down to California & Pine, where it stands today, my aunt Daisy, rode in the upstairs by the window thoroughly enjoying herself by waving to all the people. Jackie Wagers remembers seeing her.

I'm sure from the incidents I remember my father recalling, that the Cary Bros. were known as very honorable men that did excellent work. Business was enacted in such a different mode than today. He told of several different homes they built, they would have to wait a whole year until the crops were harvested to be paid for the house. No doubt by prearrangement but trust was imperative in order to do business.

My uncle Fred kept the books of the contracting business. When they built a structure they would order the nails in kegs, then, what was left he would weigh and give the owner credit on the contract.

Of course, I never knew them as young men but in doing this research both Bud and I have had our eyes opened and have begun to realize how ambitious and industrious these two men were, always working and owning together as a team. They make me feel proud of my heritage and proud to be their descendent."

I hope you have enjoyed this story of the Cary Bros. as recalled by Evelyn. She was very proud of their accomplishments in the Lodi area.

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LODI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

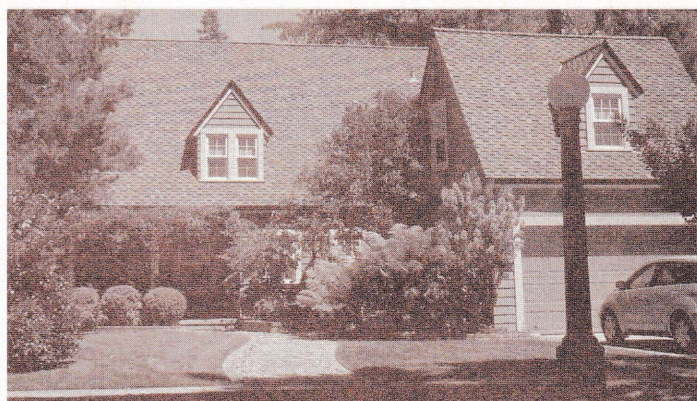
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120 South Crescent built by the Cary Bros. for Bud and Evelyn Hassbaum.



Built for Charles Ferdun at 401 West Oak Street.



503 West Pine Street built by the Cary Bros. for Henry and Cecilia Thompson.



Loyal (Bud) Van Valkenburgh's house on Cherokee Lane, (now Highway 99) and Peltier Road built in 1897. 160 acres homesteaded. Anna and Ed Cary were married here on January 1, 1904